

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 07301 111508Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 RSC-01 /012 W
----- 025767

R 111420Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9550
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS JIDDA 7301

E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, XF, SA
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR ARMIN MEYER VISIT TO MIDEAST

REF : STATE 271129

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT BECAUSE OF THE HAJ SAUDI GOVERNMENT OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 19-29 INCLUSIVE, WHILE MFA, PILGRIMAGE, INTERIOR AND OTHER AUTHORITIES ATTEMPT TO COPE WITH THIS YEAR'S ESTIMATED 1.5 MILLION PILGRIMS. WITH SHIFT OF COURT TO JIDDA ON DECEMBER 10, KING AND MINISTERS, AND MANY SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE NOW IN JIDDA AND WILL BE HERE UNTIL AROUND JANUARY 15. DURING THE HAJ, HOWEVER, THEY WILL BE INACCESSIBLE EITHER BECAUSE OF VACATION, OR BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN RELIGIOUS FESTIVITIES IN MECCA. THE HAJ IS A QUIET SEASON IN MANY ARAB COUNTRIES, BUT IN SAUDI ARABIA--EXCEPT FOR THE PILGRIMAGE ACTIVITIES "PER SE"--IT IS A TIME WHEN VIRTUALLY ALL ACTIVITY CEASES ABOVE THE SUB-MOLECULAR LEVEL.

2. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AMBASSADOR MEYER MAY
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WISH TO ABBREVIATE HIS TRAVEL IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND PERHAPS

OMIT STOP IN RIYADH ALTOGETHER.

3. EMBASSY WILL BE CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS'S DAY; JANUARY 2 AND
3--AMBASSADOR MEYER'S LAST TWO DAYS IN JIDDA, ARE THE
EMBASSY'S AND THE COUNTRY'S WEEKEND. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE,
HOWEVER, TO ARRANGE SOME MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO
ARE IN THE CITY.
AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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